

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-19, 21, and 23 were pending. Following entry, claims 1-19, 21, and 23-24 will be pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102a) as anticipated by German patent no. 299 19 053 to Trisa Holding AG (hereinafter “Trisa”). Specifically, the Examiner alleged Figs. 3-5 depict all elements recited in claims 16-19 of the instant application.

The Assignee has amended independent claim 16 to recite “an annular spacing defined between said brush shaft and said handle.” As best understood by the Assignee, Figs. 3-5 of Trisa fail to depict or suggest such an annular spacing. Fig. 3, for example, does not show any annular spacing between the brush shaft and handle. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully submits Trisa does not anticipate independent claim 16.

Claims 16-19, and newly added claim 24, all depend from patentably distinct claim 16. Thus, these claims are themselves patentable. The Assignee makes this statement without reference to or surrendering the independent bases of patentability contained within each of these claims.

The Assignee respectfully submits claims 16-19 have been proven patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejection and allow these claims as soon as practicable.

Conclusion

The Assignee believes no fees or petitions for extensions of time are presently due. However, should any such fees or petitions be necessary, please consider this a request therefor and charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 as required.

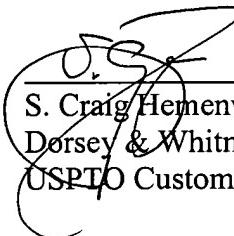
The Assignee thanks the Examiner for his thorough review of the claims in this application. Further, the Assignee submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and

Appl. No.10/045,953
Amdt. dated January 29, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 5882.02
Express Mail No. EV 410 058 955 US

respectfully requests the application be passed to allowance. In the event the Examiner has questions or comments and a telephone conversation would expedite a resolution, the Assignee invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (303) 629-3400.

Dated this 29th day of January, 2004

Respectfully submitted:


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